I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231,

on the date shown below.

Christine C. Gurney

Christine C. Gurney

PATENT

Docket No. GC507-2-US

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Nathaniel T. Becker, et al.

February 7, 2001

Serial No.: 09/215,095

Filed: December 18, 1998

Matrix Granule For:

Group Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: Borin, M.

## Information Disclosure Statement

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information (listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and attached thereto) of which they are aware, that they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56.

This Information Disclosure Statement:

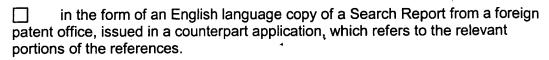
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§1.97(a		
three r	is filed within three months after the filing date of the application nonths after the date of entry into the national stage of a PCT afforth in 37 CFR §1.491.	on or within application
(c)∐ first Of	as far as is known to the undersigned, is filed before the maili ffice Action on the merits.	ng date of a
(d)⊠	is filed after the first Office Action and more than three month	s after the

rejection or a notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, and is accompanied by either the fee (\$240) set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) or a certification as specified

application filing date or PCT national stage date of entry filing but, as far as is known to the undersigned, prior to the mailing date of either a final

Acc Info	7 CFR §1.97(e), as checked below. Authorization to charge Deposit ount No. 07-1048 in the amount of \$240.00 to cover the cost of this rmation Disclosure Statement is provided in the Transmittal Letter submitted ewith in duplicate.
allo Tra 07- spe <b>cor</b>	is filed after the mailing date of either a final rejection or a notice of wance, whichever occurred first, and is accompanied by authorization (in the nsmittal Letter submitted herewith in duplicate) to charge Deposit Account No. 1048 the fee (\$240) set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(I)(1) and a certification as cified in 37 CFR §1.97(e), as checked below. This document is to be asidered as a petition requesting consideration of the Supplemental ormation Disclosure Statement.
[If either of boxes	s (d) or (e) is checked above, the following "certification" under 37 CFR
§1.97(e) may nee	d to be completed.] The undersigned certifies that:
COL	Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure tement was cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a interpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of Information Disclosure Statement.
for rea mo	No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement is cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart eign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making isonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) are than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure attement.
A copy of the item	ns on Form PTO-1449 is supplied: PCT International Search Report for
PCT/US	, filedwith attached patents and publications.
	none only those listed below:
PTO-1449 are no	or publication(s) which are marked with an asterisk (*) on the attached Form the supplied because they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in a Serial No filed, and relied upon in this application for an earlier filing section.
<u> </u>	ation of relevance of the items listed on PTO-1449 is:
	not given
	given for each listed item

given for only non-English language listed item(s)



The Examiner is reminded that a "concise explanation of the relevance" of the submitted prior art "may be nothing more than identification of the particular figure or paragraph of the patent or publication which has some relation to the claimed invention." MPEP §609.

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

Respectfully submitted,

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION Attorney Docket No.: GC507-2 Serial No.: 09/215,095 Applicant: Nathaniel T. Becker, et al. Filing Date: December 18, 1998 **Group: 1631** Page 1 of 1 Date of this Submission: February 7, 2001 US PATENT DOCUMENTS Examiner's **Document** Sub-Filing Initial Number Date Name Class Class Date 4,106,991 08-15-78 Erik Kjaer Markussen, et al. 4,689,297 08-25-87 Ivan C. Good, et al. 4,740,469 04-26-88 Masayuki Nishinaka, et al. 4,760,025 07-26-88 David A. Estell, et al. 5,324,649 06-28-94 Raymond E. Amold, et al. 5,814,501 09-29-98 Nathaniel T. Becker, et al. **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS** Examiner's **Document** Sub-**Translation** Initials Number Date Country Class Class Yes/No WO 91/06637 05-16-91 PCT WO 91/09941 07-11-91 **PCT** WO 97/12958 04-10-97 PCT WO 99/32595 V 07-01-99 **PCT** WO 99/32612 07-01-99 PCT WO 99/32613 07-01-99 PCT EP 0 130 756 B1 06-02-91 EP OTHER DOCUMENTS Examiner's Initials Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

PTO-1449